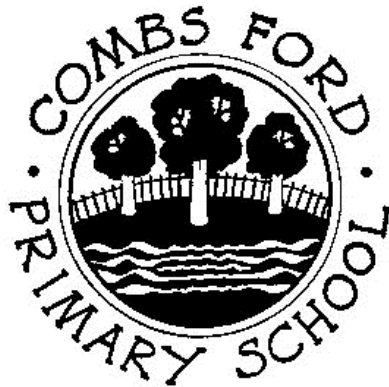


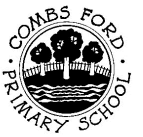
Combs Ford Primary School

Early Years Foundation Stage Policy



Successful Learners ~ Confident Individuals ~ Responsible Citizens

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Approved By:	Governing Body	Date:	March 2024
Review Cycle:	Annually		
Next Review By:	February 2025		



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Introduction

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) applies to children from birth to the end of their first year school. At Combs Ford Primary School children join our EYFS in the year they turn five. Children join us from many different nurseries and pre-schools or straight from home. Our EYFS has two classes: Robins Class and Kingfishers Class. Each class is led by a qualified teacher and supported by teaching assistants.

Aims

Our aims for the Early Years Foundation Stage at Combs Ford Primary School are that children:

- are happy;
- develop a love of learning;
- develop positive attitudes to learning and skills that will help them achieve in later life;
- access a broad and balanced curriculum that gives them a solid grounding in the wide-ranging knowledge and skills they need for good progress through school and life;
- strive to be 'The best that they can be' by aspiring to our 'In Early Years We Are...' goals:
 - Confident Communicator
 - Proud Performer
 - Independent Individual
 - Fantastic Friend
 - Super Sporty
 - Dynamic Designer
 - WOW Writer
 - Brilliant Bookworm
 - Talented Tool User
 - Master of Maths
 - Exceptional Explorer
 - Incredibly Imaginative

In Early Years We Are...

Independent Individuals who can follow the Rainbow Rules, set simple goals and persevere to achieve them, select resources, manage their own personal needs and know how to stay fit and healthy			
<p>Confident Communicators who can listen carefully in different situations, hold a conversation with friends and adults, ask relevant questions and use new vocabulary to explain ideas and feelings</p>	<p>Talented Tool Users who can hold a pencil effectively, use a range of tools (for example scissors, cutlery, paintbrushes, tweezers, hammer, screwdrivers) safely and with confidence</p>	<p>Fantastic Friends who can be kind, caring and helpful, show empathy and respect to others, work and play cooperatively whilst considering others' ideas and feelings</p>	<p>Super Sporty By taking part in physical activities. By showing good sportsmanship and accepting loss. They can recognise changes in their bodies and know how to keep themselves healthy.</p>
<p>Amazing Artists who create using a wide range of materials and techniques. Who can look at their work and say they like about it and how they have improved it. Amazing artists use their own ideas but are also by others.</p>	<p>Brilliant Bookworms who can show a love for reading, use new vocabulary to talk about what they have read or has been read to them, read words and simple sentences (using single sounds and digraphs they have learnt)</p>	<p>WOW Writers who can write letters that are formed correctly, write words and simple sentences (using the graphemes they have learnt) that can be read by others</p>	<p>Masters of Maths who can show a deep understanding of numbers to 10, recognise patterns within the number system, subitise, compare quantities and recall number bonds to 5</p>
<p>Exceptional Explorers who can show curiosity about the world around them, understand how to read and draw a simple map, understand some differences between times and places</p>	<p>Incredibly Imaginative taking on roles with confidence. They can become characters from stories, using expression and vocabulary. They can innovate well known stories.</p>	<p>Proud Performers who can perform a song, poem or dance to an audience, retell stories with expression and confidence, play a range of percussion instruments correctly and with good rhythm</p>	<p>Dynamic Designers who can choose and safely use the resources they need to make their creations, talk about what they have made and how they have made it</p>

Our EYFS Curriculum

Our curriculum is based on requirements set out in the [2021 Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage](#).

Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support to enable them to fulfil their potential. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child's experiences between birth and age five have a major impact on their future life chances. A secure, safe and happy childhood is important in its own right. Good parenting and high quality early learning together provide the foundation children need to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up. From The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (DfE March 2021).

The EYFS is guided by four principles:

- Every child is a **Unique Child** who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured
- Children learn to be strong and independent through **Positive Relationships**.
- Children learn and develop well in **Enabling Environments** with teaching and support from adults, who respond to their individual interests and needs and help them to build their learning over time. Children benefit from a strong partnership between practitioners and families
- The importance of **Learning and Development**. Children develop and learn at different rates.

What are we trying to achieve?

Our Early years setting follows the curriculum outlined in the [2021 EYFS Statutory Framework](#). We use [Development Matters](#) (non-statutory guidance from July 2021) to plan objectives that lead children to the Early Learning Goals.

The EYFS framework includes 7 areas of learning and development that are equally important and inter-connected. 3 areas – known as the prime areas – are particularly important for igniting curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building children's capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

The **Prime Areas** are:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development

The Prime areas are strengthened and applied through four **Specific Areas**:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

These seven areas are a basis for planning teaching, the environment and the experiences that we offer our EYFS children at Combs.

How do we organise learning?

For each of the seven areas we have developed a long-term plan of the skills which children will learn each term. This can be found on the EYFS page of our school website.

Each half term our learning is based on a theme. For this a medium-term plan is produced which outlines the focuses for the half term for the seven areas of learning. These focuses may change during the half term to reflect the children's interests or needs.

Each week a weekly plan is shared with all staff so they know the expectations for that week, how they can move children's learning on and what knowledge we would like our children to have by the end of that week.

Twinkl Phonics is used to deliver daily phonics teaching to ensure consistency with the rest of the school.

Maths is guided by the **White Rose Hub** to ensure consistency with the rest of the school. Maths is taught five times a week.

Literacy is taught through Drawing Club and is based around a high-quality book which engages children and inspires further learning. The first Literacy lesson begins with a **'Sparkly Start'** to introduce the book and encourage conversation and curiosity. We then investigate the character. On a Tuesday we read the story again and talk about the setting. Wednesday to Thursday it is Adventure Time and we

imagine a scenario from the story. The teacher models drawing and writing a simple sentence. Children come to Drawing at least twice a week where they draw and write.

Every afternoon there is whole-class teaching which may focus on **Personal, Social and Emotional Development** (incorporating **Jigsaw** – our whole school approach to teaching PSHE), **The World** or **Expressive Arts and Design**. The focus links to our story or theme of the week. All children join in with the whole-class input. Some may then go and work with a teaching assistant.

We value play and believe it is fundamental to good quality learning for children within EYFS. Our children have lots of opportunities for **'Busy Time'** where they are independent learners. Each area of learning and development is implemented through planned, purposeful play, and through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activities. These activities and areas offer challenge but also enable children to learn without an adult being present – they act as the 'Third Teacher'.

Throughout the day children are able to access outdoor learning either in the **Early Years Garden** or **Willow Bank**. When learning outside there are lots of opportunities for children to develop their own learning and follow their own interests.

Children are able to choose when they have a snack. They can help themselves to the healthy snacks which we provide or they can bring in a snack from home. The snack area has open and closed periods. There is always a member of staff present when the snack table is open. Children are able to help themselves to a drink at any time of the day.

Where an adult is working with a child they respond to each child's needs and interests, guiding their development through warm, positive interaction. Where there maybe gaps or inconsistencies in learning the adult will give children a **'Little Wish'** and help them to move their learning on.

At the end of every session children's learning is celebrated and linked to our **'In Early Years We Are...'** goals.

How well are we achieving our aims?

Daily Assessment

Children are informally assessed throughout each day. Staff observe the children and where they may be gaps in learning these are identified and shared with the team. The team respond straight away – this may be in the moment by helping the child within their play, revisited again at a different point, or through the writing and maths jobs the children complete with an adult each week. Any concerns the team have about a child's learning is recorded on a weekly Assessment for Learning (AfL) sheet.

Phonics Assessment

Children read one to one each week with either their class teacher or their teaching assistant. This is to ensure they are reading at the correct level in line with their phonics knowledge. When one to one reading, their sounds are checked to ensure

they are reading the correct level book. Each child takes home a Rhino Reader from the Twinkl Phonics Program

At the end of teaching each level, children are assessed for their sound knowledge, their ability to read, and their ability to spell words (both decodable and tricky).

Formal Assessment:

Within the first 6 weeks of a child joining the EYFS, staff will administer the statutory Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA).

At the end of the EYFS, staff complete the statutory EYFS Profile for each child. Children are assessed against the 17 Early Learning Goals (ELGs) to work out whether they are meeting expected levels of development ('expected') or are not yet reaching expected levels ('emerging'). This information is shared with families and Year One teachers. The 17 Early Learning Goals are:

Communication and Language

1. Listening, Attention and Understanding
2. Speaking

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

3. Self-Regulation
4. Managing Self
5. Building Relationships

Physical Development

6. Gross Motor Skills
7. Fine Motor Skills

Literacy

8. Comprehension
9. Word Reading
10. Writing

Mathematics

11. Number
12. Numerical Patterns

Understanding the World

13. Past and Present
14. People Culture and Communities
15. The Natural World

Expressive Arts and Design

16. Creating with Materials
17. Being Imaginative and Expressive

Working with Families

We recognise the importance of working closely with our families. Each child has their own Learning Journey which is on Tapestry. Each week families receive a newsletter on Tapestry, keeping them up to date with all of the learning for that week.

Each term every child is a 'Focus Child'. This means that the team capture their 'Magic Moments' and write a commentary about their learning for their family to see. The week prior to this, we send home a letter asking for some more information about the child – what parents think is going well, what their child's interests are, and if they need further support. When a child is a 'Focus Child' they have their own display area where they can put up their work for everyone to see.

Once a fortnight the EYFS Lead opens the gate to greet the children and families. This is a time where families can speak to the EYFS Lead about any worries or questions they have.

Twice a year, families are invited in to meet with their child's teacher. At the end of the year each family receives a formal report about their child's year in EYFS.